

REMARKS

The Applicants address the matters the Examiner raises in the order he presents them.

The objection as to form

The Examiner objected that claims 11, 12, 20, 21, 33, 34, 46, and 47 are improper multiple dependent claims, and, on those grounds declined to examine them on the merits.

The Applicants' amendment to those claims moots the Examiner's objection, and the Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner withdraw it.

The restriction requirement

The Applicants disagree that the restriction requirement is proper for the reasons they state in their response of July 24, 2006.

The objection regarding the Markush group

The Examiner objects that the Markush groups recited in claims 1-4 and 7 are improper, arguing that the claims lack unity of invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree: Markush groups are proper when they recite related subject matter. All the species within the Markush groups are either nucleic acid sequences or amino acid sequences relating to alternatively spliced prostaglandin FP receptors. The Examiner refers to such sequences as "structurally unrelated" – but if nucleic acid sequences encoding variants of a protein are unrelated, it is difficult to see what *would* be structurally related other than identical sequences. This would defeat the purpose of the claiming permitted by Markush groups. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The rejection of claims 2 and 7

The Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 7, mooted the Examiner's rejection of claims 2 and 7.

Conclusion

There being no rejections or objections remaining that relate to non-withdrawn claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that an allowance is proper.

The undersigned authorizes the Director to charge any fees required or necessary for the filing, processing or entering of this paper or any of the papers transmitted with it, and to refund any overpayment, to deposit account 01-0885.

Respectfully submitted,

/Joel B. German/

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